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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/671,835

09/29/2003

Anthony R. Dopf

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10/05/2004

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EXAMINER

DUVERNE, JEAN F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,835

Applicant(s)

DOPF ET AL.

Examiner

Jean F. Duverne

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2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/5/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: the term "may be" as recited in the claims is not a positive limitation. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Buck (US patent 3,508,188).

In regard to claims 1-7, Buck's device discloses a plug and socket means (see figs. 1-4) adapted for mating engagement, for establishing electrical communication there between in a hazardous environment; said plug means at comprising an elongate male member, having a plurality of electrical contacts at 88 about an outer periphery thereof; a resiliently-biased sheath member (84), slidably biased (with the spring features) over said male member so as to substantially cover said electrical contacts on said male member, which upon application of force thereto slidably moved so as to uncover said electrical contacts; and biasing means member for biasing said slidable sheath member

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over said male; said socket means (64) comprising elongate receptacle means having disposed about an inner periphery thereof a plurality of electrical contacts, said electrical contacts adapted to contact said electrical contacts respectively on said male member at 88 when said male member is inserted in said receptacle means; resiliently-biased protective means displaceable from said receptacle means so as to permit insertion of said male member within said receptacle means; and biasing means, biasing said protective means so as to prevent ingress of any foreign material into said receptacle means when said male member is not yet inserted in said receptacle means; wherein said male member is adapted for insertion in said receptacle means upon mating engagement of said plug means with said socket means; said resiliently-biased protective means comprising a piston member, slidably-biased within said receptacle means, adapted to substantially cover said electrical contacts disposed on said inner periphery of said receptacle means when said male member is not yet inserted in said receptacle means; wherein said piston member at 66 is displaceable from within said receptacle means by said male member upon insertion of said male member in said receptacle means; said socket means further comprising means for contacting said sheath member upon mating engagement of said plug means with said socket means, so as to cause said sheath member to be slidably displaced from a position covering said male member as said male member is inserted in said receptacle means;

In regard to claims 8-19, Buck's device discloses the aforementioned limitations including the mating drill pipe at 10, 30 or housings with opening, the

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rotation features (see col. 4) wherein said plug at 48 means adapted for positioning within an interior of the first drill pipe proximate an end thereof, said end of said drill pipe adapted for mating engagement with a mating end of another drill pipe, and said socket means adapted for positioning within an interior of said another drill pipe proximate said mating end thereof; and said male member adapted for insertion in said receptacle means upon said first drill pipe being fitted in mating engagement with said another drill pipe; the use of pressure forces to compress the springs and make electrical connection.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean F. Duverne whose telephone number is (571) 272-2091. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-7:30, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private

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PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197

(toll-free).

JFD

09/39/2004



Jean Frantz Duverne
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839